(iii) Various export promotion schemes operated by the Department of Commerce such as Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB), Market Development Assistance (MDA) Market Access Initiative (MAI) etc.

Global demand for textile items

1883. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is spurt in global demand for textile items and that the small textile units are gearing up to do good business;

(b) if so, anticipated demand of Indian textile items during next three years and likely share of small sector mills and handlooms; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that only international standard quality items are exported to give a regular work orders to weavers and handloom houses?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir. The free global trading regime would result in increased international trade in textiles thus providing greater export opportunities for the indigenous textile industry, including small textile units.

(b) With the removal of quotas, Indian textile exports are expected to cross $15 billion in 2005-06. However, a reasonable estimation about India's exports during next three years can be made only after the confirmed trends of global trade in textiles and clothing during the post quota period are available.

(c) Government has been taking a number of steps to promote textile exports and to ensure quality of textile export products, some of the important initiatives are as under:

(i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.

(ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.

(iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iv) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The mission comprises four mini-missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new Market yards/improvement of existing market yards.

(v) Ministry of Textiles has recast the Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) and Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme (APES) for speeding up the implementation of the Schemes and to actualize the vision of attaining export target of $50 billion by 2010. This scheme is based on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and envisages engaging of a professional agency for project execution.

(vi) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.

(vii) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.

(viii) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items are allowed to the garment exports, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.

(ix) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced w.e.f. 20.4.2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @ 10% under TUFS in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

(x) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches and Apparel Training & Desing Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower

requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(xi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

श्री सभापति: बैठिए, बैठिए।...(व्यवधान)...

Statement regarding policy package for stepping up credit to Small and medium enterprises

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I lay on the Table a Statement (in English and Hindi) regarding Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2480/05]

Memoranda of Understanding (2005-06) between the Government of India and the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited and the Power Finance Corporation Limited

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Power) and the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, for the year 2005-06. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T.2440/05]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Power) and the Power Finance Corporation Limited, for the year 2005-06. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T.2491/05]

Notifications of the Ministry of Home Affairs

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Sir, I lay on the Table:

(i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Home Affairs Notification S.O. 723 (E), dated the 26th May, 2005, superseding S.O. 541 (E), dated the 11th April, 2005, regarding constitution of one more Review Committee for the purposes of the Prevention of Terrorism (Repeal) Act, 2004,